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## **ENERGY UPGRADE CALIFORNIA IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY CREATES NEW MARKET FOR HOME PERFORMANCE INDUSTRY**

### ***SUCCESSFUL STIMULUS-FUNDED INITIATIVE IS FULLY SUBSCRIBED WITH SUBSTANTIAL RESULTS BENEFITTING LA COUNTY RESIDENTS***

- **Saved enough energy to power over 169 homes for one year**
- **Created more than 360 jobs in Los Angeles County**
- **Created public awareness of home energy efficiency by hosting more than 770 community events**

LOS ANGELES, CA (October 2, 2012) — [Energy Upgrade California in Los Angeles County](#) is celebrating the successful completion of its whole-house incentive program. In partnership with Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas Company, Los Angeles (LA) County's matching incentive funds for [Basic and Advanced Upgrade Package](#) energy efficiency retrofit projects have been fully committed. The program achieved its projected energy savings goals, resulting in an estimated 360 construction-related jobs since the program's early 2011 launch. The cumulative energy savings achieved by LA County residents who participated in the program equates to over 116,000 therms of natural gas and over 2,000 megawatt-hours of electricity. According to the Department of Energy, the average US home consumes 11,800 kilowatt-hours per year, which is equal to 11.8 megawatt-hours. So, the megawatt-hours saved through Energy Upgrade California in LA County thus far would power 169 homes for one year.

[Energy Upgrade California in LA County](#) has served the community on many levels. The program has helped educate homeowners to think of their home as a system and run a more energy efficient household, while stimulating the economy by creating building industry jobs to meet this new-found demand. Overall, LA County residents have invested nearly \$17 million so far in making home energy upgrades, which directly benefited building professionals and the local economy. Incentives and utility bill savings are likely to be spent by homeowners on other priorities to the benefit of local economies. In total, LA County provided training for 311 Home Performance Industry workers and 229 real estate professionals, and gave over \$350,000 in scholarships to expand participating building professionals' knowledge of building science.

"It was encouraging to see so many citizens of LA County take advantage of such an exciting program. It was truly impressive to see how satisfied these homeowners were with their actual retrofits," said Howard Choy, General Manager of the LA County Office of Sustainability.

"Participating homeowners are happy with their reduced energy use, enhanced comfort, and improved indoor air quality."

Many program participants also took advantage of LA County's low-interest rate [Energy Loan Program](#), which allows residents to make home energy improvements now, paying them off

over time. The upgrades performed to date have saved an equivalent of 4,589 barrels of oil or 1,973 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>, according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency's calculator (source: <http://1.usa.gov/9LRGMG>). With results like these, [Energy Upgrade California](#) plans to continue assisting homeowners in LA County with energy efficiency and whole-home upgrades for the foreseeable future by promoting utility incentives combined with the low-interest financing available.

[Energy Upgrade California in LA County](#) has committed more than \$4,000,000 in incentives to homeowners who have taken advantage of the [Basic, Advanced, and Flex Path Upgrade Packages](#). Utility rebates of up to \$4,000 will still be available to homeowners into the future for Basic and Advanced Upgrade Package projects. LA County's low-interest rate Energy Loan and Flex Path Programs will also continue to be available for homeowners.

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**About Energy Upgrade California in Los Angeles County:** Energy Upgrade California Los Angeles is administered and overseen by an alliance among LA County, Southern California Edison, and Southern California Gas Company. Los Angeles County was one of the first counties in California to roll out this program. Locally, county officials are coordinating with Southern California Edison, the Southern California Gas Company and L.A.D.W.P. to provide homeowners with information on home upgrade benefits, financing, incentives and home energy ratings and help with finding participating contractors. For more information, consumers can visit [www.energyupgradeCA.org/LACounty](http://www.energyupgradeCA.org/LACounty).